

## Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /071 W

----- 052112

R 311026Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4862

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABU DHABI 2362

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, US, TC

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFIARS: COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT--  
UAEG VIEWS

REF: (A) STATE 178439, (B) KUWAIT 4120

1. FOLLOWING ARE OBSERVATIONS OF MIN STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAIF GHOBASH ON COLOMBO SUMMIT AS EXPRESSED DURING BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR STERNER AUGUST 22 AND IN FOLLOW-UP CALL BY CHARGE AUGUST 30. YEYHILE UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYED AND FONMIN AHMED SUWEIDI ALSO ATTENDED CONFERENCE, THEY WERE MORE INVOLVED IN BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH OTHER HEADS OF STATE AND DELEGAUNS, LEAVING MOST OF NAM BUSINESS TO GHOBASH.

2. AS GENERAL OBSERVATION GHOBASH TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT CONFERENCE WAS WELL ORGANIZED BUT THAT THERE WERE FAR TOO MANY SPEECHES. HE FELT SYSTEM SHOULD BE DEvised WHEREBY SET, LIMITED NUMBER OF PLENARY SPEECHES WERE ALLOCATED ON REGIONAL BASIS. AS FOR GENERAL ATMOSPHERE,  
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GHOBASH TOLD CHARGE THAT HE DID NOT SEE MUCH DIFFERENCE

IN COLOMBO FROM THAT WHICH PREVAILED AT LIMA (WHERE GHOBASH HEADED UAE DELEGATION). HE DID NOTE EFFORT MADE BY SOME AT START OF MEETING, IN DEBATE OVER ADJUNCTION OF NEW MEMBERS, TO RESTORE "PURITY OF SPIRIT" OF EARLIER DAYS OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. THESE STATES SOUGHT ESTABLISH RIGID GUIDELINES FOR NAM MEMBERSHIP BUT MAJORITY--INCLUDING 7-3--WAS INCLINED TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE--TO VIEW NAM IN GHOBASH'S WORDS AS "A CLUB NOT A REGIMENT." GHOBASH SAID THIS INITIAL TREND, WHICH TOOK DAY AND HALF TO ESTABLISH, GENERALLY PREVAILED--THAT TRADITIONALIST WHO SPOKE OF "GOOD OLD DAYS" (AND GHOBASH WONDERED HOW GOOD THEY HAD BEEN) HAD BY AND LARGE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN TURNING BACK CLOCK.

3. ON SUBSTANCE, GHOBASH TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT UAE WAS AT PAINS TO STAY OUT OF TROUBLE--TO AVOID CONTROVERSY. DESPITE BEST INTENTIONS, THIS WAS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE. WITH SAHARA ISSUE PLAYING LARGE ROLE--PARTICULARLY AMONG ARABS--UAE WAS FORCED AT LEAST TO LEAN IN DIRECTION OF MOROCCO AND IMMEDIATELY FOUND ITSELF CATCHING FLACK FROM ALGERIA'S SUPPORTERS AS RESULT. UAE DID, OF COURSE, TAKE STAND IN FORM OF FORMAL RESERVATIONS ON PUERTO RICO AND ON TIMOR LANGUAGE. LIKEWISE, GHOBASH IN WLJSS STATEMENT HERE AUGUST 27, DDHOED HIS KUWAITI COLLEAGUE (REF B) IN REJECTING IDEA OF OIL EMBARGO AGAINST FRANCE FOR ITS ALLEGED POLICY TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA. GHOBASH CONFIRMED LAST MINUTE NATURE OF THIS PROPOSAL, NOTING IT ONLY SURFACED AFTER HE LEFT COLOMBO. HE NOTED TO CHARGE IT WAS ONE THING FOR UAE TO HAVE ITS OWN EMBARGO ON SOUTH AFRICA--WHICH IT STRICTLY ADHERED TO--BUT IT WAS QUITE ANOTHER TO TAKE ACTIONS AGAINST THIRD COUNTRY FOR ITS SOUTHERN AFRICAN POLICY. LIKE KUWAIT, UAE HAD NO INTENTION OF CARRYING OUT THIS NAC RESOLUTION.

4. ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RAISED REF A, GHOBASH'S FOLLOWING COMMENTS WERE SOMEWHAT THIN, REFLECTING IN PART THINNESS OF UAE DELEGATION AND CONSEQUENTLY OF ITS PARTICIPATION IN MUCH OF SUMMIT DELIBERATIONS.(3 (A) PUERTO RICO--GHOBASH CLAIMED LACK OF KNOWLEDGE RE CUBAN TACTICS ON THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ISSUE. HE STATED UAE ONLY BECAME INVOLVED WHEN MATTER COMING TO HEAD IN POLITICAL COMMITTEE AT WHICH POINT GHOBASH PUT IN APPEARANCE TO EXPRESS RESERVATIONS. (B) KOREA--UAE'S OFT REITERATED POLICY OF NEUTRALITY ON ISPAUHOOK FORM AT COLOMBO OF TOTAL NON-INVOLVEMENT. GHOBASH DID NOT ARGUE WITH CHARGE'S CHARACTERIZATION OF KOREAN RESOLUTION AS VERY EXTREME, ANYTHING BUT BALANCED, BUT STATED UAE DELEGATION TOOK POSITION THAT

SAYING NOTHING ONE WAY OR THE OTHER WAS MOST CONSISTENT WITH ITS ESTABLISHED POLICY ON KOREAN QUESTION.  
(C) MIDDLE EAST--GHOBASH STATED THAT ONCE ARAB STATES HAD WORKED OUT AGREED POSITION, THEIR PROPOSALS IN THIS AREA MIGHT BE ACCEPTED BY SUMMIT WITHOUT OBJECTION OR CHANGE. IN SHORT, WHAT GIVE AND TAKE HAD OCCURRED WAS STRICTLY IN-HOUSE AMONG ARABS.

(D) OPEC/NON-OPEC DIVISION--GHOBASH STATED THERE HAD BEEN SOME INDIRECT CRITICISM OF OPEC STATES, SPECIFICALLY URGING THAT THEY DIRECT THEIR INVESTMENTS TOWARD DEVELOPING WORLD INSTEAD OF POURING ALL FUNDS INTO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES)( GHOBASH INDICATED THIS ARGUMENT FOUND LITTLE SYMPATHY ON PART OF UAE. AID PROGRAMS WERE ONE THING (AND EVEN HERE GHOBASH INDICATED UAE

HAPPINESS WITH CONCEPT OF GENERALIZED DEBT RELIEF BEING PUSHED BY NUMBER OF LDC'S) BUT WHEN IT CAME TO INVESTMENTS IT WAS UP TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO CREATE CONDITIONS WHICH INSPIRED CONFIDENCE IN THE SOUNDNESS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS OF SUCH INVESTMENTS. AT LEAST, IN CASE OF UAE, ITS FUNDS WOULD CONTINUE TO GO WHERE SUCH CONDITIONS DO PREVAIL--AND FOR THE MOMENT THAT MEANT ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY TO THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

5. COMMENT: UAE OBVIOUSLY GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH COLOMBO SUMMIT, BUT THIS CLEARLY REFLECTS ITS LIMITED EXPECTATIONS. AS STATED ABU DHABI 2269, MAIN OBJECTIVE WAS FOR SHAIKH ZAYED TO TAKE HIS PLACE AMONG WORLD LEADERS AND TO EXCHANGE VIEWS. ISSUES IN MOST CASES, WERE OF LIMITED IMPORTANCE TO UAE AND DECISIONS, REGARDLESS HOW EXTREME, WILL IN ITS VIEW HAVE LITTLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LASTING IMPACT.  
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## Message Attributes

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